Life Saving Devices For Fishermen

6004. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated a proposal with a Rome based organisation to finance a pilot project to provide sophisticated gadgets to the fishermen in India as life saving devices during the cyclones;

(b) if so, the details of the project alongwith the details of various life saving devices proposed to be provided to the fishermen; and

(c) the details of the foreign Investment amount involved in this project?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) A project under the Technical Cooperation Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations entitled "Training in the Sea Safety Development Programme" has been approved for implementation in the coastal areas of East Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh with an outlay of US $ 316000. This pilot project has provision for setting up of a transceiver, installing shore to boat communication system on fishing vessels, safety equipments, outboard motors and life saving devices such as life jackets and life buoys for selected beneficiaries.

Felling of Trees

6005. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a couple of States have decided to regularise the felling of trees by tribals from their cultivation land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the States and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employees agitation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

6006. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government are aware of the agitation of Non-Gezetted Employees in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their grievances, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to solve their problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Non-Gazetted Employees of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration have been agitating against the amendment to the Recruitment Rules for the posts of Head Clerks/Assistant-in-charge made by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration vide their Notification dated 4th January, 1996. The new Recruitment Rules provide for filling-up of 75% of these posts by promotion from amongst the Higher Grade Clerks and 25% by direct recruitment whereas the earlier Recruitment Rules provided for filling up of 100% of these posts by promotion. The Employees Association have also filed an application in the Central Administrative Tribunal, Calcutta Bench and the matter is therefore sub-judice. The Andaman & Nicobar Administration is in touch with the Employees Association to find a mutually accepted solution.

Minorities Development and Finance Corporation

6007. SHRI K. S. RAYADU: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State Minorities Development Finance Corporations alongwith names of States;

(b) the details of funds of these corporations and their programmes; and

(c) the number of corporations properly functioning and number of them not functioning satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) There are ten State Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (SMDFC) set up in the following States :

Sl. No.	Name of the State
1.	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Bihar
3.	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Karnataka
5.	West Bengal
6.	Himachal Pradesh
7.	Tamil Nadu *
8.	Madhya Pradesh *
9.	Assam (under Incorporation)
10.	Tripura (under Incorporation)

* The State Channelising Agencies of these States are Backward Classes & Minorities Development & Finance Corporation.